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ASUN should try to make real changes Apathy remains

And so begins another year at college. This year, as in years past, there are sure to be several controversial campus issues.

Oftentimes the issues are complicated and confusing, and the line between good and bad is a fine one. Other times, however, the decisions are easy and the answers clear.

There will be those who, in spite of ignorance, will fight for change to make this university a better place. And even in a place of enlightenment, there will be those who will choose to stay in the dark -- chasing moot points, short-term solutions and wrong answers.

An example?

Each year members of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska try to find ways to get more students active in student government.

Truth is, most students these days just don't care.

Nonetheless, ASUN's current administration has made fighting student apathy its No. 1 goal.

Second vice president Jon Bruning said he would like to see ASUN pursue more controversial issues to keep students interested and involved.

That's a backward approach. Bruning should be trying to address issues that matter to students, whether they are controversial or not.

Besides, ASUN has tackled several controversial issues in the past, and only a small, active minority has seemed to care.

Perhaps if ASUN executives and senators spent more time thinking up truly new and creative ideas to solve the problems students face, more people would become involved.

It's not the first time ASUN members have beaten a dead horse.

Remember the ASUN book exchange? Senators decided last year to organize a file system in the ASUN office so that students could list books they wanted to buy or sell. They went ahead with the system even though a similar exchange failed five years ago.

Tyler Correll, the senator who wrote the exchange legislation, said when the system began last fall, "Whether nine people or 90 people use it, it's here to stay."

ASUN scrapped the exchange this year because of lack of interest.

History should have told senators that a.) if students are apathetic and b.) a previous exchange failed, it is highly unlikely that students will venture into the ASUN office, fill out a card listing the books they have to sell and wait for a call, when they can wander into the bookstore and exchange them in a matter of five minutes.

So they finally nixed the exchange, but then they replaced it with another equally empty campaign promise -- the student hotline.

Wise up, guys. Students aren't likely to use the ASUN Student Complaint Hotline senators are implementing this semester.

The hotline is supposed to give students a chance to talk about campus issues and work with ASUN members to solve problems, according to Bruning.

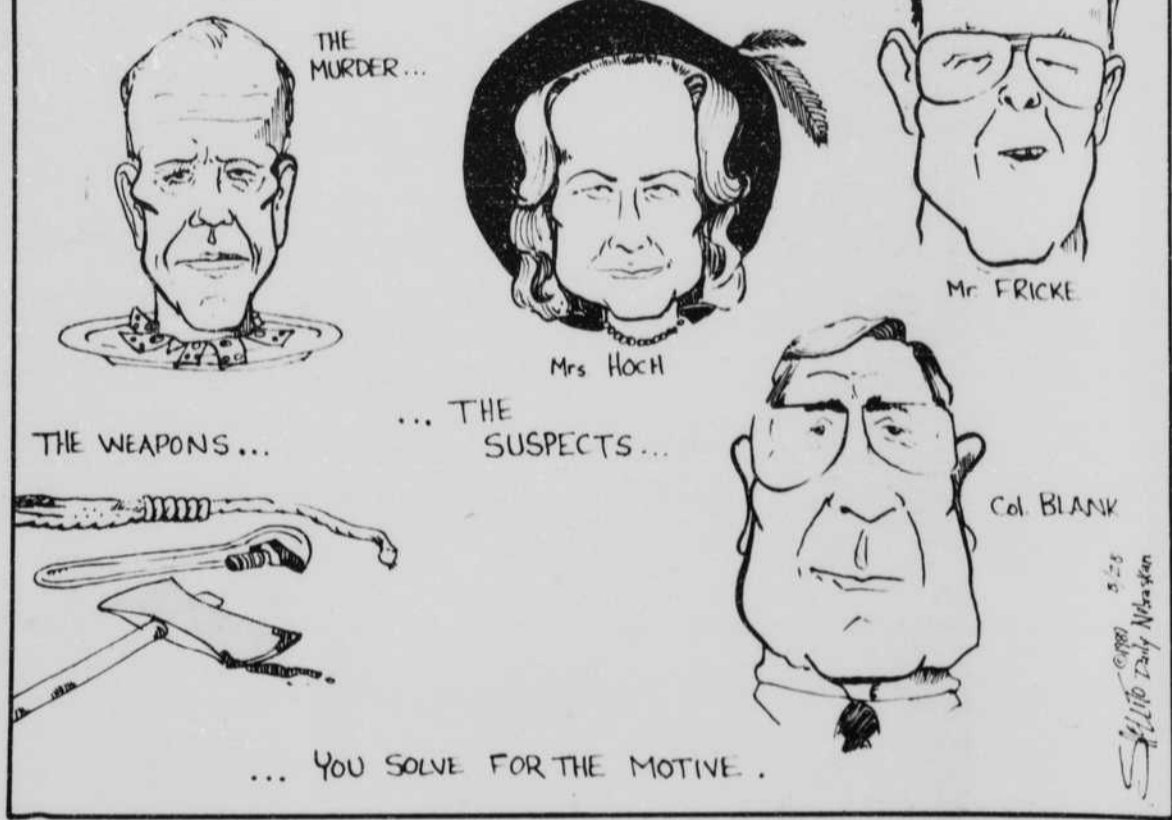
Students had the same opportunity to voice concerns at the constituent meetings senators advertised last year. Few showed up.

And what makes a hotline any different than ASUN's regular phone number? If students wanted to contact ASUN about something, they would.

This year, maybe ASUN senators will start making some real changes instead of opting for empty legislation just because it's easy to implement.

-- Lee Rood
for the Daily Nebraskan

Clue ? The Regents Game of Mystery



Schooltime resolutions fall prey to procrastination in first week Good intentions doomed at start

As everyone knows this is the first week of school.

It's like New Years, because most people make resolutions for the rest of the year during the first week of the fall semester. The resolutions usually are doomed from the beginning, but, optimistically, we continue to make them every year.

Our usual promises include school work, exercise, money, parking tickets, etc. Be responsible, we tell ourselves. Don't put them off.

But when we try to own up to these responsibilities, we stumble over procrastination.

Procrastination describes probably 90 percent of all college students. Obviously, it's not a foreign word to most of us -- we find it in every aspect of our life.

We need to recognize how dangerous procrastination can be to college students. It's like some slick virus that spreads across the campus -- a communicable disease.

Remember the library book you haven't returned, the parking permit you haven't picked up, the tickets you haven't paid. Watch out. They'll tow you and you'll have to pay for that, too.

Do you have to subject yourself to good times at general registration because you blew off registering last spring?

Yeah, me too.

So cut it out. Get it done on time. Somebody stop the procrastination. Sounds like your mom when you were 10 years old and didn't want to clean your room.

But if you really are sick of the problems procrastination causes, the first week of school is the time to do something about it.

To combat the epidemic, I was thinking of starting a support group called, "Procrastinators are People Too." But most people would rather deny their problems than admit they need help.

So I decided instead to identify the stages of procrastination, making the problem easy to recognize early so we can change our ways immedi-

ately.

Stage 1. -- The "I'll get it done but I still have a week" stage. This stage is probably the most common stage and possibly the most deadly. If this one is caught in time, there's still hope. Unfortunately, this stage is altogether too obvious for the normal person to catch, and the cure for it hasn't been found.

Stage 2. -- The "I'm not in the mood now but I'm sure I will be later" stage. Let's not fool ourselves into believing that there is a time and a place that we will want to study bio-nuclear chemistry. Realistically, there is going to be a fight anytime we try to read numbers written like a novel.

The key is realizing that there is no time like the present. You must continue to think that it will be over soon. Open the book, get in the right frame of mind and glue your eyelids open.

Stage 3. -- The "I'd do it now but there's a great party tonight and if I get all the fun out of my system now, I'll do a better job, but if I don't go, all I'll think about is the fun I could be having" stage.

There is definitely a realistic solution to this stage. Study during the day. Pay your parking ticket after class. Get things done during the time when you usually take your party nap. Chances are when you finish your paper you will receive such a natural high from getting something done for once, that the party nap won't be so essential. You'll be able to go out with enough energy to stay up all night and sleep through your bio-nuclear chemistry class tomorrow.

Stage 4. -- The "I work well under pressure" stage. This stage is possi-

bly the scariest stage because it presents a somewhat believable excuse. I realize that there are a great deal of students out there who can do well under pressure, but there is a difference between that extra push and simply running out of time. Don't do this to yourself. Get it done now.

Stage 5. -- The "Everyone else is blowing it off so why shouldn't I" stage. This is, by all means, the most deceiving of the six stages. Why? Because blowing off something to one person can mean they only have three-fourths of it done, and blowing something off to you and I can mean starting our work two hours before class.

Realize this early, before it's too late. Usually the people who told you they were so far behind are the ones who come up to you the next day and tell you how much fun they had the night before while you sit and sulk.

Stage 6. -- The "I hate myself because I have run out of time so I will take it out on my friends then suddenly I have all the time in the world because I have no friends" stage.

This stage involves side effects including depression, nausea, severe weight gain, insomnia and a large decline in the number of your friends. When you have hit stage six, you have finally hit rock bottom. So you ask yourself, "Where can I go from here? Is there any way out?"

My solution is start now. On the first day of school if your teacher assigns five pages, read them. It's going to add up and suddenly be 105 pages. If you have a parking ticket, pay it now. There's no worse feeling than walking out to your car and seeing it jacked up on a tow truck.

Trust me. If you get it done now, you can live up to the incredible social life you always dreamed of having as a college student at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and you'll be a much happier, healthier person in the end.

Kim Beavers is a senior advertising major and a Daily Nebraskan columnist.



Kim Beavers

letter

The Daily Nebraskan welcomes brief letters to the editor from all readers and interested others.

Letters will be selected for publication on the basis of clarity, originality, timeliness and space available. The Daily Nebraskan retains the right to edit all material submitted.

Readers also are welcome to sub-

mit material as guest opinions. Whether material should run as a letter or guest opinion, or not to run, is left to the editor's discretion.

Letters and guest opinions sent to the newspaper become the property of the Daily Nebraskan and cannot be returned. Letters should be typewritten.

Anonymous submissions will not be considered for publication. Letters should include the author's name, year in school, major and group affiliation, if any. Requests to withhold names will not be granted.

Submit material to the Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St., Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0448.

editorial

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